

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-07 ACDA-10 AF-06 EUR-12

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R 171510Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4612

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3637

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - SEPT. 17

1. INTERNAL

SEPT. 17 PRESS REPORTED THAT SYRIAN SEMI-OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO DENOUNCE SINAI AGREEMENT IN CABLES SENT TO BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAN.

2. FOREIGN

PRESS NOTED THAT IN SPITE OF MASS ARAB PROTEST AGAINST AGREEMENT, FIRST SHIP CARRYING ISRAELI CARGO HAS CROSSED CANAL "EN ROUTE TO OCCUPIED PALESTINE." PALESTINIANS WHO CARRIED OUT MADRID OPERATION QUOTED AS SAYING THEIR AIM WAS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO DANGERS OF SINAI AGREEMENT. EGYPT REPORTEDLY DISBANDED UNION

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OF PALESTENIAN WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS IN CAIRO.

3. UNITED STATES

AL-BAATH AND AL-THAWRAH REPORTED THAT PRES. FORD CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF SECRET AGREEMENTS BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL AS PART OF SINAI AGREEMENT STIPULATING LARGE SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN ARMS TO ISRAEL. SADAT AWARE THAT AMONG WEAPONS UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE ROCKETS CAPABLE OF STRIKING EGYPTIAN CITIES. IN ARTICLE REFERRING TO JACK ANDERSON REVELATIONS CONCERNING SECRET CLAUSES, AL-BAATH NOTED THAT "DOCUMENT PUBLISHED BY WASHINGTON POST DID NOT BROACH SUBJECT OF SYRIA IN ANY WAY."

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT

AL-BAATH COLUMNIST REPLIED TO SOME CHARGES RAISED IN SADAT SEP 15 SPEECH BY CRITICIZING LOGIC OF EGYPTIAN LEADER (WITHOUT EVER NAMING HIM DIRECTLY) WHICH IMPLIES THAT "EGYPT EXISTS OUTSIDE ARAB WORLD WITH ISOLATED REGIONAL INTERESTS AND SEPARATE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY." ALTHOUGH SPEAKER TRIED TO PORTRAY PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AS UNDER SOVIET AND SYRIAN TRUSTEESHIP, "PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION REJECTS THIS UNDERSTANDING AND WILL REPLY ITSELF." WRITER CONCLUDED OMINOUSLY WITH CLAIM THAT SPEAKER "PLAYING WITH FIRE. THOSE WHO STARTED THIS GAME WILL RECKON GRAVE EXTENT OF THEIR MISTAKE WHEN THEIR FINGERS START TO BURN WITH FIRE OF ARAB WRATH WHICH WILL UPROOT DISASTROUS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT."

5. ANOTHER AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CLAIMED THAT AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES DEATH OF THREE ARAB "NO'S" OF KHARTOUM - NO RECONCILIATION, NO NEGOTIATION, AND NO SURRENDER OF ARAB LAND. AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING SADAT BY NAME, THIS COLUMNIST NOTED THAT EGYPT HAD IN PAST EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR KHARTOUM RESOLUTIONS BUT WAS NOW DEPARTING FROM THEM.
MURPHY

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